

We look at the field of solar, for example. We have over 300,000 people working in the solar energy field, actually more than work in the coal fields now. Some of those solar companies are in districts that I represent. This is a new industry. Renewables now comprise 10 percent of all the energy that the country produces, and this has been a major accomplishment in just the last few decades.

A lot of photovoltaic research goes back to the 1980s. We are now looking at wind energy, the fastest growing job sector in America. It is really for wind technicians.

I thank the members of our committee on both sides of the aisle for appreciating the opportunity to grow this massive industry, including with investments such as LEEDCo in the State of Ohio; capturing the Saudi Arabia of wind, which is Lake Erie's complement.

So we feel a sense of accomplishment tonight as we bring this bill to the floor and we look at the horizons ahead. We know that we have to deal with the other body, we have to compromise out any of our differences, but I have a hunch that we are going to be able to do that very well.

I thank all those who may be listening this evening, particularly those who are working in our National Labs, the finest labs in the world that are inventing the future from coast to coast. Over a dozen and a half of those labs have America's best scientists working on not just energy research, but derivative spinoffs in the commercial sector that eventually benefit the entire country.

As I mentioned, the natural gas discovery that has really been responsible for leading us toward energy independence was made possible by the fracking technology developed over many years at the U.S. Department of Energy. So as you look at gas prices going down at the pump and you look at the competition in the energy industry, we have a lot of people, many unsung heroes across our country in these labs who work tirelessly on behalf of the American people. Some are retired and some are still in place, but we owe them a deep debt of gratitude for serving the American people so nobly.

We are going to have several other amendments that come before us tonight.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman if he wishes to make a statement.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman. It is wonderful to have someone who can talk with some intelligence about what we are doing here, and keep the attention of the body as we are waiting for Members to come to the floor.

Ms. KAPTUR. I think it is fair to say, Mr. Chairman, that you do such a fine job and move the bill along that people were anticipating their amendments would come up later in the evening. But, as usual, this is not just

an energy efficient committee, but a very efficient committee.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker Pro Tempore (Mr. MITCHELL) having assumed the chair, Mr. GALLAGHER, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

PERMISSION TO CONSIDER AMENDMENT NO. 32 AND AMENDMENT NO. 35 PRINTED IN HOUSE REPORT 115-259 OUT OF SEQUENCE

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, during further consideration of H.R. 3219, pursuant to House Resolution 473, amendment No. 32 and amendment No. 35, printed in House Report 115-259, may be offered out of sequence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Idaho?

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 473 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 3219.

Will the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GALLAGHER) kindly resume the chair.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes, with Mr. GALLAGHER (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole House rose earlier today, amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 36 OFFERED BY MR. MITCHELL

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 36 printed in House Report 115-259.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 273, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$18,100,000)".

Page 273, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$476,400)".

Page 282, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$5,900,000)".

Page 296, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$28,169,300)".

Page 326, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$52,645,700)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MITCHELL) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my fiscally responsible amendment that is one step in securing America's future.

My amendment is a simple 10 percent cut to administrative expenses of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Works, Department of the Interior, and Department of Energy. These savings would be used to reduce the deficit.

Our national debt stands at \$20 trillion, and growing. Our unfunded liabilities add another \$100 trillion to \$200 trillion to the Federal debt, and that is only a guess. Our deficit last year was over \$500 billion. That is not sustainable. It jeopardizes our future and must be taken seriously. Paying lip service to the problem will not solve it. Talk is cheap. We must now be responsible, before it is too late.

I come from the world of private business and know the importance of having our fiscal house in order. I also know that being fiscally responsible starts with small steps, which, when added together, make a big impact.

Early in my career, I worked at Chrysler at the time when Lee Iacocca was CEO and went through the first loan guarantee. His famous fiscal savvy and focus helped save Chrysler, which was destined for bankruptcy. If not for Iacocca taking strong but necessary measures, a great Michigan company would have been lost.

Lee Iacocca understood that fiscal responsibility starts on a small scale. He once said if he had a manager who couldn't cut administrative costs by 10 percent, he needed a new manager.

Mr. Chair, that is what I propose today, a 10 percent cut to administrative costs of government agencies, which is a small step that, when combined with others like it, could yield back results and big savings for taxpayers. Moreover, these cuts would restrain an overactive government bureaucracy.

The Republican-led Congress has worked hard to undo years of copious overregulation, but another solution is to have fewer regulators and fewer bureaucrats passing on regulations that make it hard for businesses to survive and taxpayers to live their lives.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to choose fiscal responsibility, choose a secure American future, make a modest cut in the administrations costs of

our government, and support my amendment.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment. I understand that reducing the size of the bureaucracy is an important issue for many Members, and should be for all of us.

As chair of the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Subcommittee, I am always open to hearing if my colleagues have particular concerns with agency budget requests. I could be supportive of thoughtful strategies for reducing the size of government by making agencies more efficient and carrying out their statutory goals. That is not what this amendment does. This amendment simply slashes 10 percent from each administrative account in the bill.

Most of these accounts have been held flat or even slightly decreased over the past several years. Reducing them an additional 10 percent, with no clear idea on how such cuts would be absorbed, is simply not the right way to address the size of the Federal Government. It could take longer to review and improve important water resource projects—I hear about that all the time from my colleagues—or to issue grants and approve research agreements—I hear about that all the time from my colleagues—or to respond to congressional information requests—I hear about that all the time from my colleagues.

These cuts would also put at risk the cybersecurity efforts of each agency, reducing their efforts to secure their own IT infrastructure. I don't think that is what the gentleman from Michigan intended, but that is a very possible result of this amendment.

Mr. Chair, for those reasons, I must urge a "no" vote on this amendment.

Ms. KAPTUR. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I also rise in opposition to this amendment.

I respect the gentleman from Michigan, particularly because he is from the Great Lakes region, too, and we need him as a strong voice for our Great Lakes, but I do think that cuts to these particular accounts really are counterproductive, for the following reasons.

First of all, the most important step any country can take to deal with the deficit is to grow the economy. This particular budget, this particular set of accounts, particularly the Army Corps of Engineers, has the type of construction and building accounts that produce income. They produce income for people who do the work, but they also improve our ports.

If you look all around Michigan, if you look at the Soo Locks, if you look at the assets just in our region of the country, the progress that a region can make, because it improves its ports and attendant roads and rails and so forth, creates opportunity for companies to locate and to grow.

We just had a phenomenal announcement in the city of Toledo this week by the Cleveland-Cliffs company. We have been working for 30 years to improve the port to connect rail and to have east to west, north to south highway improvements. By golly, it worked with a \$700 million investment by the private sector. It was just so exciting to bring ore from Michigan and Minnesota into the lower lakes. It was really quite incredible.

So these dollars yield results. They don't happen in one year. They take a while to happen, but they happen.

I also oppose the gentleman's amendment because there are \$62 billion of backlogged projects at the Army Corps of Engineers alone. I don't know if you saw the stories about the Department of the Interior. People are lined up to get into the national parks through those turnstiles, trying to get into our national parks.

We need to improve those parks. We need to make sure that we are doing things like dealing with the Forest Service so that the underbrush is cut out and that our forests aren't burning up all over the country.

We have such a maintenance backlog across this Nation, and with budgets of this size, we don't want to be in a position where we under account for the funds that are being spent.

So to reduce funding for critical oversight in the administrative departments of these very large agencies, I think is not wise. In fact, it is penny-wise and pound-foolish in the end.

Mr. Chair, for all of those reasons—our jobs, the security of taxpayer funds, and for the sake of the future—I oppose the gentleman's amendment and urge my colleagues to join me.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Chair, I certainly did not intend the adverse impacts that are outlined by the chairman or the ranking member, nor do I believe they will arise.

My experience in years of management is that, rather than detail item-by-item the cuts to be made, allow the leadership of agencies to determine where they can be more efficient. I honestly have to say, I can't imagine that we cannot be more efficient than we are in the Federal Government. I admit, my experience is somewhat more brief than many, but I am, frankly, shocked some days.

I urge support of my amendment. I realize it may not be popular, but, at some point in time, we need to start to cut the incredible costs of this government.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MITCHELL). The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 32 OFFERED BY MR. MAST

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, it is now in order to consider amendment No. 32 printed in House Report 115-259.

Mr. MAST. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 268, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$500,000)".

Page 270, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$500,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. MAST. Mr. Chairman, I rise today because I represent the Treasure Coast of Florida, and it is facing an environmental disaster that, sadly, communities across the Nation face, from down along the Mississippi, up in Michigan, to the east coast of Florida. We face these disasters year after year. This disaster is toxic algal blooms.

The water that is discharged into my area comes out of Lake Okeechobee and goes into the Treasure Coast of Florida. It puts people out of business, kills sea life, sea grass, manatees, and fish. It makes people sick. It destroys home values and businesses. It is all because of a guacamole-like toxic algal bloom that can occur year after year. This can't continue. Our communities can't wait any longer. Our lagoons, beaches, and water have to be restored.

My amendment increases the Aquatic Plant Control Research Program within the Army Corps of Engineers' Engineer Research and Development Center, or ERDC, by \$500,000 above the appropriated level.

The Aquatic Plant Control Research Program is the only federally authorized research program directed to develop the kind of technology for management of nonindigenous aquatic plant species, like these toxic blooms.

When I talk to the Corps about the issue in my community and the communities across the country, I am told that they don't have the technology to scale the type of equipment that cleans out fish tanks to the level that we are facing in these large bodies of water.

This amendment replaces the \$500,000 shortfall from last year's appropriation and makes important investments in the research in order to ensure that the Army Corps has all of the information required to develop that technology that can scale the size needed to successfully complete their mission.

Mr. Chair, I urge immediate passage, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I understand what the gentleman's concern is. In fact, it is a concern not only in Florida, but all over the country. It is a concern in Ohio. It is actually a concern in Idaho. You wouldn't think about that, but they are having some problems in Idaho with algal blooms, also. So it is something that we need to get on top of.

I would just like to clarify that the amendment does not direct funds to any particular activities so that doesn't necessarily mean that this will get done, but I understand what the gentleman is trying to do.

For that reason, and because it doesn't upset the balance of the bill, I will not oppose the amendment, but I want to work with him, as well as, I am sure, the ranking member, because this is an issue we have got to address across the country. I appreciate him bringing this matter and this issue to our attention so that we can talk about it.

Ms. KAPTUR. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to add a bit to that.

I thank Congressman MAST very much for offering this amendment. I do think we need to work with the Corps. Obviously, this is a growing problem. We have heard from Florida colleagues. We have heard from colleagues in Nevada, throughout the Great Lakes region.

These algal blooms are truly frightening. In the Midwest, in the Great Lakes region, a major water system was shut down for 3 days in the city of Toledo, denying water to over half a million people for 3 days. It is quite frightening.

At the moment, there is no—and I say this for the Corps' benefit, because it would require cooperation with other agencies—ecosystem satellite mapping or drone technology currently that is able to photo large regions and home in on where the nutrients are that are causing the problem.

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As I have gotten into this more deeply, we need high science, whether it is high-frequency infrared or whatever we use. We do not have the ability to home in on where the causes are coming from and then target the toxic portions of those algal blooms.

So a lot of work is needed, and I really appreciate the gentleman rising tonight. I know you have gotten the Corps' attention as you have gotten our attention, and we will work with the chairman to see if we can't make progress on this really vexing issue.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I appreciate the gentlewoman's comments, and we not only need to work with the

Corps, but we also need to work with the EPA in trying to address this issue because it is a lot broader than most people think.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MAST. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 35 OFFERED BY MR. HECK

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. DONOVAN). Pursuant to the order of the House of today, it is now in order to consider amendment No. 35 printed in House Report 115-259.

Mr. HECK. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 270, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$500,000)".

Page 273, line 1, after the dollar amount insert "(reduced by 500,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HECK) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. HECK. Mr. Chairman, my amendment is about tackling a problem that, frankly, affects every single one of us in every single one of our districts, and that is storm water.

Most of us probably don't think about it very much, but, frankly, when rain falls—it does a lot of that in the Northwest—and flows through our streets and off the shoulders of our highways, it picks up all sorts and kinds of pollutants. We are talking, frankly, about some really nasty stuff: toxic chemicals like arsenic and flame retardants, as well as oil and pesticides.

Stop and think. The single largest contributor of water pollution in the United States of America is storm water runoff—up to 80 percent in some places.

Toxic storm water runoff harms our rivers and our lakes and our waterways. But it not only harms our environment, it harms our businesses that depend on clean water, like the shellfish industry of Washington State which employs, literally, thousands of people.

In Puget Sound, the largest estuary in America, storm water runoff literally can kill a salmon in a few hours. Well, salmon and other fish are a way of life in Washington, to the tune of a \$30 billion, with a B, economy.

Salmon also serve as a vital resource of immeasurable value. For the 19 federally recognized Tribes in the Puget Sound, salmon is their way of life. They are called the salmon people.

If we fail to address the problem posed by storm water, these resources will continue to decline, and our com-

munities will continue to pay an avoidable price.

So what are we doing right now to stop this from happening? The answer is: a few things, but nowhere near enough.

If we are going to truly address the problem, the Federal Government needs to do the basic, and that is set an example. The good news is that Congress has recognized this in the past, because about 10 years ago this body passed a law which requires Federal agencies to reduce storm water runoff when they develop or redevelop property. That is a commonsense requirement, but we can't stop there.

Research shows that the most cost-effective and efficient way to reduce storm water runoff is through what is called green infrastructure, or low-impact development, things like rain gardens and permeable pavement and green roofs.

You probably won't be surprised when I share that the largest storm water research center in the United States of America is in my district at our land-grant university, Washington State University's extension campus in Puyallup. So I am a witness to the promise and the potential of this approach.

This amendment simply provides funding for the Army Corps of Engineers to determine to what extent they are using these technologies and techniques to comply with the requirements already imposed by Congress.

Mr. Chairman, if we are going to help communities and businesses impacted by toxic storm water runoff, it is crucial that the Federal Government set the example and lead the way. So I ask you to join me as responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars and ensure that Federal agencies are using the latest and most efficient technology to manage storm water runoff.

Finally, I want to extend my deepest appreciation to the chair of the committee, my friend from Idaho, and the ranking member from Ohio very, very much. I urge adoption of this amendment.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I agree with what the gentleman is trying to do. I would just point out again that this amendment does not direct the funds to any particular activity, so it will actually take some coordination with us and some conversation with the Army Corps of Engineers to make sure that this goes in the area that we would like it to go to to study just what the gentleman was talking about.

But because it doesn't direct it to a particular activity, for that reason and because it does not upset the balance of

the bill, I will not oppose the amendment. In fact, I will support the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HECK).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 37 OFFERED BY MS. KAPTUR

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 37 printed in House Report 115-259.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I rise as the designee of Congressman BEYER, and I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 277, beginning on line 12, strike section 108.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would essentially strike the provision related to the waters of the United States, section 108. Unfortunately, Republican insistence on the inclusion of poison pill riders like this one has derailed several important pieces of legislation over the last few years, especially clean water rural riders.

However, let me be plain. This rider is worse than any of those previous versions, and it will not gain the Democratic votes necessary to become law. It actually is a roadblock in the way of us moving our bills forward.

This rider would exempt the repeal of the clean water rule from laws that would otherwise apply, including the Administrative Procedure Act, essentially allowing the President to act unilaterally, the executive branch to act unilaterally without any input from the public. That doesn't sound like America to me.

The Administrative Procedure Act was a Republican idea to make sure that government is accountable to its citizens and that their input be considered. People have come to expect this in their own communities. Exempting this action on clean water is a very slippery slope toward government by fiat, by an administration which deserves more scrutiny, I might add, on that front than any in our history.

So I urge all my colleagues to support the Kaptur-Beyer amendment.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, this is going to be something that the ranking member and I happen to disagree on.

Poison pill riders—I have always liked that term, “poison pill riders.” What they are are policy changes. If

they are policy changes you like, they are policy changes. If you don't like them, they are poison pill riders. So when they had the majority, they put what we considered poison pill riders in their bill, but they were policy changes, and that is what we do in some appropriations bills.

But I rise in strong opposition to this amendment. I have been debating this issue for, I don't know, probably 10 years. While the change in the administration means that we are able to reduce the number of the issues we needed to address in this bill, some issues warrant continued congressional attention—WOTUS is one of them.

My reason for opposing the Obama administration's WOTUS rule remains the same. The rule would greatly expand Federal jurisdiction over the Clean Water Act. The Supreme Court has twice ruled that the definition used under the Clean Water Act of navigable waters was hard to define and told them that they need a new definition.

Well, the EPA's design on a new definition is, okay, we will just control everything. So everybody thinks that those waters that are now under control of the Clean Water—I mean, of the WOTUS rule written by the Obama administration were unregulated before. They were not unregulated. They were regulated by the States, and the States did a good job of regulating those things.

But now the Federal Government has come in and taken control of all of those States. We think, and the courts have ruled, that this is too broad a definition of what they intended and what the Clean Water rule states.

Nobody wants dirty water—nobody. But what we want is a rule that separates what the Federal Government has the authority to control and what the States have the authority to control.

President Trump moved quickly on this issue by issuing an executive order in February, and a few weeks ago, the EPA and the Corps announced the first step in a two-step process: a proposed rule to rescind the WOTUS rule and recodify the previous regulatory text.

The second step will be a second rulemaking to reevaluate the definition of waters of the United States in a manner consistent with the Supreme Court decision.

The provision in this bill is supportive of these efforts. First, it provides clear authorization to withdraw the Obama administration's rule. Second, it clarifies what rule will be in effect if the WOTUS rule is withdrawn, specifically, the same rules that were in effect immediately prior to the promulgation of the final WOTUS rule. And third, it does not affect the Trump administration's ability to develop a new rule, one that will provide more clarity and certainty for the regulated community while staying within the legal bounds provided by the Supreme Court.

For these reasons, I have to oppose this amendment, and I strongly oppose this amendment.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I would just like to comment, in asking my colleagues to support this amendment, that the amendment itself is intended to address the two Supreme Court decisions. And in addition, if we leave this language in the bill, the chairman was correct, this is at the policy level. This doesn't belong in an appropriation bill. Let them deal with this in the courts and the authorizing committees.

I think it creates a very, very high speed bump that threatens our bill's passage as we move forward, so I ask my colleagues to support us on striking the provision related to the waters of the United States, section 108 offered by myself and Mr. BEYER of Virginia.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. JENKINS).

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman so much for his leadership on this issue.

WOTUS, waters of the U.S., it has really been talked about for a number of years. This is a classic case of Barack Obama, the administration previous to the Trump administration, overreaching its authority. This is executive branch takeover, waters of the U.S., saying that we have got what is called navigable waters and using the executive authority to redefine what navigable waters are.

This hurts farmers. This hurts small businesses. The suggestion that just a puddle, a small creek is defined as a navigable water, we know that is simply not the case.

Let me remind folks about the three branches of government: legislative, executive, and judiciary. We have Supreme Court decisions that were putting a stop to the overreach of the Obama administration's WOTUS rule. Thank you to the courts.

We now have an opportunity as the legislative branch. We appreciate the work of the executive branch. We appreciate the fact that Donald Trump and Scott Pruitt and this administration are working to put a stop to it, because the Court said, as we all know, the Obama administration overreached.

Now what we are doing, what this appropriations bill provides is the voice of the legislative branch to say, yes, the prior administration overreached; the executive branch historically needs to be curtailed; the courts were right. We need to speak as the legislative branch giving the authority to stop this onerous rule.

I applaud the work of the Appropriations Committee. We need to put the legislative stamp of approval on what the Trump administration is doing to stop this overregulation.

I thank the chair, and I certainly oppose this proposed amendment.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

The amendment was rejected.

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AMENDMENT NO. 38 OFFERED BY MS. CASTOR OF FLORIDA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 38 printed in House Report 115-259.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 286, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$177,000,000)”.

Page 288, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$355,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Chairman, this Republican bill weakens America's commitment to clean energy. It harms the huge number of jobs that are being created in the renewable energy sector. And it stalls consumer cost savings tied to energy efficiency.

Democrats have a different vision. It is one that lowers costs on our neighbors back home, and helps create the higher paying jobs of the future.

My amendment increases funding for the Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy account by about \$177 million, and it reduces funding for the fossil Energy Research and Development account by about \$355 million.

Energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives across America have a proven return on investment for taxpayers. This amendment is paid for by reducing, but not eliminating, accounts that do not have the same return on investment for taxpayers.

Investments in energy efficiency and renewables create jobs and help make our businesses more competitive. Energy efficiency reduces costs for consumers. And wouldn't that be a positive development for taxpayers back home, that the Congress is asking to put more money back into their pockets?

The amount proposed for energy efficiency and renewable energy in the Republican bill is so low that America will have to reduce the number of research, development, and demonstration projects that are often supported with industry, at our great national laboratories, and at our fantastic universities.

Mr. Chairman, America should be a leader in innovation and technological advancement. But, instead, the Republican bill says America should take a

back seat. Well, America should not take a back seat to anyone. We are in the midst of a technological revolution when it comes to energy and energy efficiency.

Look what is happening all across America. We have a very diverse energy portfolio and a growing clean energy and efficiency sector. This is especially important as we tackle the costs and challenges of the changing climate.

Look at what we are today because of robust investments of the past decade. The solar industry is creating jobs 12 times faster than the overall U.S. workforce. In 2016, 1 out of every 50 new jobs was in solar energy.

Republicans used to say they were for all-of-the-above sources of energy. Well, you can't say that anymore.

The Trump administration and House Republicans are ceding America's leadership role in the world by failing to invest in technologies that will save families and businesses money.

Instead, we should work together and face the challenges of the changing climate head-on and not bury our heads in the sand. Sixteen of the 17 hottest years on record have occurred since 2001; including 2016, which was the third consecutive record-breaking year.

The rising costs of the changing climate are a real threat to everyone, especially to the families I represent back home in Florida, which is why I filed another amendment that was not ruled in order, an amendment that would limit the Department of Energy from removing the term “climate change” from their publications.

That is right, the Trump administration has already removed mention of climate change from government websites, and has deleted a sentence linking climate change to sea level rise in a press release. Ignoring or trying to hide the cost of the changing climate will simply cost us more in the long run.

We should be working together on investing in a clean energy future, but that, unfortunately, seems farther away today, unless we adopt an amendment like mine and begin to understand the realities that we are facing.

If we don't unleash American ingenuity now, our neighbors back home will face higher AC bills, property insurance bills, flood insurance bills, and have to put more property taxes into replacing water and wastewater infrastructure.

I appreciate Ranking Member KAPTUR's vision. A little while ago, she was talking about our national labs—the fact that we have the best scientists in the world. Don't hamstring them by cutting back on our investments in clean energy and energy efficiency. She understands that this is our future that we are talking about. I appreciate her work. I appreciate the work of Chairman SIMPSON. I urge an “aye” vote on the Castor amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McKINLEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from West Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McKINLEY. Mr. Chairman, let's step back a minute on this issue.

As you can see from this chart, coal, natural gas, and oil—fossil fuels—make up 81 percent of this country's energy consumption—81 percent.

But the proportion of R&D funding, you can see, is only 18 percent, which is far below what is currently being spent on renewables and nuclear.

The reality is that America and the entire world are going to be dependent on fossil fuels for years to come. The Energy Information Administration estimates that by the year 2040, fossil energy will still make up 78 percent of the energy used around the globe.

Are my friends on the other side serious about addressing these emissions?

Shouldn't America's goal be to develop the technologies so that we can utilize coal and natural gas around the world in the cleanest, most efficient way possible?

Shouldn't America be that global leader on energy technology?

You can't do that without research.

Mr. Chairman, we can't be cutting research on fossil fuels and technology. We should actually be increasing it.

Fossil fuels will be around for the foreseeable future. I think we have a responsibility for our children and our grandchildren to make sure that it is burned and used in the most efficient, clean manner that we can, and this requires research.

Mr. Chairman, the House has soundly defeated similar amendments to this in the past, year after year, and I hope they will defeat this one, too.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the remarks of the gentleman from West Virginia. He is a well-spoken advocate for his State.

I am not zeroing out the fossil fuel research for R&D, but, instead, we have got to look towards the future.

Where are the jobs being created now?

It is in renewable energy and energy efficiency, things that are going to put money back into the pockets of consumers and unleash this technological revolution so America can stay the leader in the world.

Mr. Chairman, I ask for an “aye” vote on the Castor amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. McKINLEY. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate Ms. CASTOR's remarks, and I enjoy working with her in committee. But the realization is fossil fuels are consumed in all 50 States. It is not West Virginia we are dealing with.

I think Ms. CASTOR is concerned about her State, the water quality in her State, and that is what this research is going to take care of.

We have got to maximize the amount of money that has been put into it. In

the past, we had far more amount of money in this.

We need to preserve what we have, and, actually, I am hoping we can plus it up a little bit.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Florida will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 39 OFFERED BY MR. NORCROSS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 39 printed in House Report 115-259.

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 286, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$161,725,000)”.

Page 288, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$323,450,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. NORCROSS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Chairman, this important amendment looks to the future and what we need for our 21st century clean energy economy. It redirects funds so we are sufficiently investing in renewable energy jobs of tomorrow.

It is a simple change. The amendment simply moves \$162 million to the Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy. It leaves the amount in that account, and the underlying bill still exceeds what the administration requested.

Certainly my colleague from West Virginia understands that investing in the future in technology is extremely important.

This bill provides \$354 million more for fossil fuels. But by providing the additional resources for energy efficiency and renewable energy, we can better meet the needs of the future economy. I happen to agree, we need to invest in all of the above. But we also must invest in solar, wind, water, and geothermal. In fact, New Jersey is second in the Nation leading in solar and renewables. We must seek that cost-effective way of reducing energy costs for our manufacturing plants, our office buildings, and certainly our homes.

We shouldn't underfund our energy future, let's make that clear. We should invest in it, the way we are in this bill. But we can redirect a small portion of that for future needs of renewable energy.

Tomorrow might be too late to do the investigation and that research. We can do it today because we need a long-term strategy that takes the best of what we do here in America and continues that. If it is clean coal, we can do that. If it is solar, we can do that. If it is wind, we can do that. We have the ability to do all that, and add high-paying jobs.

Let's make this simple change and reallocate just a small portion of the fund. I encourage my colleagues to support this amendment and embrace the clean energy future.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the gentleman from New Jersey's amendment.

The fossil Energy Research and Development account actually helps the Nation use the full extent of our resources safely, wisely, and efficiently. I always hear Members say—and I have heard it several times tonight already—that they support an “all-of-the-above” energy strategy.

Unfortunately, this amendment does just the opposite. It picks energy winners and losers. The level of funding for fossil Energy R&D in this year's bill recognizes the important role fossil energy plays in our Nation's future.

At a time when fossil power generation is actually expanding around the globe, the activities funded in the bill advance our Nation's position as a leader in fossil energy technologies.

I just hosted a conference in my home State of West Virginia on something that is getting a lot of attention lately: rare earth elements.

I want everybody just to think about that phone that they hold in their hand or, if they are watching on TV, that TV in their home.

Guess what. These phones and those TVs have what is called rare earth elements. And you would think by the term “rare earth,” it must mean, gosh, they are rare, hard to find.

Guess what. Rare earth elements are found in many places. Amazingly, coal contains an abundant supply of rare earth elements.

This is important to our national security because, currently, China has a monopoly on the rare earth element market. Ninety percent of all rare earth elements that are in every phone and every TV are controlled by China. But we know that coal, through research, can unlock an abundant supply of these critical elements that we need for everyday technology.

So this just isn't about energy production. This is about everyday items that impact our life.

□ 2030

So for our Nation's security and electric grid reliability and use of our do-

mestic fossil fuel resources, investment in fossil R&D is critical. Each of these programs represent a partnership with the private sector that provides an even greater leverage to Federal funds. Therefore, I urge our Members to vote against the gentleman from New Jersey's amendment so we can support fossil energy R&D for our country and for our future.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Chair, in many ways, I think my colleague from the other side of the aisle is agreeing with me. We need to do research, that R&D that he is speaking about, but it is about balance. The dollars that were in the underlying bill far exceeded that of what the administration asked for.

We are simply saying, let's not pick one winner, let's pick them all, and see where that technology of tomorrow is taking us.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the Congresswoman from Maine (Ms. PINGREE) for her remarks.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support of the Norcross amendment, and I want to thank my colleague for calling attention to this issue and the importance of EERE.

I represent the State of Maine, and we have over 3,000 miles of tidal coastline and millions of acres of forest. We are famous for our natural resources and the recreational opportunities that they provide, so it would be no surprise that these resources are providing our residents with an abundance of renewable energy sources.

Our State's natural resources and our efforts have made us one of the leaders in renewable energy development. From solar, to wind, to tidal, to biomass, Maine is a leader in renewable energy.

Because our State is largely a rural one, with many diverse energy needs in our rural and island communities, we are particularly attentive to rising energy costs and the need to have more ways to solve them.

This amendment today would restore funds to the EERE account, and it will help the State of Maine, like so many other States like it that are working hard to move our energy policy to the 21st century.

We have traditionally been in one of the most oil-dependent States in the country, but this will help us address rising energy costs with more tools and technologies at our disposal.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support renewable energy, and I support this amendment.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the gentleman from New Jersey's amendment.

Let me simply state, while he politely suggests we have agreement, bottom line, his amendment guts the fossil energy R&D. It takes over \$300 million out of the fossil research and development, the kinds of research and

development that can generate rare Earth elements and other things that we have talked about, in addition to use for our power generation.

Mr. Chair, I simply oppose this amendment and ask for its rejection.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Chair, may I inquire how much time I have left.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey has 30 seconds remaining.

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Chair, this is the first time I have ever heard “gutting” by giving millions of additional dollars over the administration.

I have worked in nuclear power houses, I have worked in coal power houses, gas-fired, I have worked in solar fields. This is absolutely about the future of our energy needs. We don't know what it holds, but I do know that investing in research and development is the way to go.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. NORCROSS).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 40 OFFERED BY MR. QUIGLEY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 40 printed in House Report 115-259.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 286, line 24, after the dollar amount insert “(increased \$921,000,000)”.

Page 297, line 21, after the dollar amount insert “(reduced by \$921,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chairman, some of us in this room are old enough to remember duck and cover. As kids, the notion was that, if you hid under a half-inch plywood piece of desk under a thermonuclear attack, you would be safe. It is not a particularly rational idea, but not much more rational than our current nuclear posture.

For decades, Presidents and Members of Congress from both parties have worked together to prevent the use and spread of nuclear weapons and materials. Starting with President Reagan's leadership, American Presidents have reduced the size of America's nuclear

arsenal from its Cold War peak. In fact, Republican Presidents have cut the arsenal far more aggressively than their Democratic counterparts, yet this year's Energy and Water bill doubles down on an outdated Cold War strategy by unnecessarily diverting precious resources to build new nukes.

It remains unclear how these weapons will solve 21st century national security threats such as terrorism, cyber attacks, or global warming.

Rather than wasting dollars to keep up the status quo, we must find ways to replace the U.S. nuclear arsenal while maintaining a force capable of deterring nuclear attack against the U.S. and its allies.

In 2013, the Pentagon determined that the U.S. could reduce its deployed strategic nuclear force by one-third below its current levels and still meet security requirements. According to the former vice chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the military utility of U.S. tactical nuclear weapons, such as the B61, is practically nil. Defense Secretary Mattis has raised doubts about the need for the new ICBMs, and they need to take a closer look at the new nuclear-armed cruise missile.

Rather than wasting tax dollars to keep up the status quo, we must find ways to replace the U.S. nuclear arsenal while maintaining a force capable of nuclear deterrent.

It is worse than that. This bill proposes to add nearly \$1 billion to the nuclear weapons activities account by gutting the Department of Energy office responsible for research and application of technology to increase energy efficiency and renewable energy. DOE's EERE has traditionally enjoyed bipartisan support and is crucial to research and development in clean renewable energies, energy use reduction technologies, vehicle engines, geothermal technology, and advanced batteries.

This is a government success story. The \$12 billion we invested in EERE, through 2012, yielded a more than \$230 billion benefit to the U.S. economy, and EERE has an annual return on investment of more than 20 percent. Entire industries are built on the back of the work EERE does, stimulating a robust domestic clean energy economy.

The role of EERE is also critical to furthering the transition to a low-carbon economy and ensuring long-term, robust, sustainable economic growth. That is why this amendment would take \$922 million from nuclear weapons activities and give it back to EERE.

Just to be clear, this would still be a cut to that office. The current bill funds EERE at \$986 million less than the current enacted level, but it would go a long way towards fixing this mistake.

Mr. Chair, I urge committee members to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment—not just opposition to this amendment, but strong opposition to this amendment.

This bill fully funds the request of \$10.2 billion for weapons activities, which is, as the gentleman stated, an increase of \$921 million over fiscal year 2017.

I have got to tell you, from his comments, you would think we were growing the nuclear stockpile. The reality is we are decreasing the size of the nuclear stockpile currently under the new START program. But even having done that, we have to fund the modernization of our nuclear stockpile, and it is one of my highest priorities in this bill.

The activities the gentleman proposes to cut are the primary reasons the Energy and Water bill is being included as a division in the Defense minibus, because maintaining the nuclear weapons stockpile is essential to our Nation's national security.

The increase provided in this bill to weapons activities is needed to extend the life of four nuclear warheads and to address the continued deterioration of the infrastructure at the Department of Energy's nuclear sites. These investments are long overdue and must be funded if our Nation is to have a credible nuclear deterrent, regardless of the size of that nuclear deterrent.

I would say that the Department of Defense is carrying out a nuclear posture review that will inform future funding needs. Until that concludes, there is no change in our Nation's nuclear defense requirements, and Congress, I believe, must fully fund those requirements if our Nation is to have a credible nuclear deterrent.

Increases are also needed, as I said, to address the aging infrastructure at the Department of Energy's nuclear energy sites.

Mr. Chair, I strongly oppose this amendment that the gentleman from Illinois is offering and would encourage my colleagues to vote against it.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chairman, respectfully, what the gentleman is talking about has been done many times. Again, in 2013, the Pentagon said we could do this with one-third of the weapons we have now.

The cost of restoring a weapon like the B61 is more than its weight in gold. We have already been told we have too many. So the plan here is, let's restore as many as possible, build as many as we possibly can, and maybe in the future we will be told again that we don't need this many. In the meantime, we are using those resources to cut necessary programs.

Mr. Chair, I ask for Members' support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I would say that the Secretary of Energy is required to report to the President on

the safety and reliability of our nuclear stockpile. This is part of that requirement by the Department of Energy so that they can assure the President that our nuclear stockpile is safe and reliable. Modernizing these nuclear weapons makes sense.

Now, we can sit and argue whether we need all these nuclear weapons or not—I happen to think we can get by on quite a number fewer nuclear weapons—but we still have to maintain the nuclear weapons stockpile that we currently have and let the Department of Defense do their Nuclear Posture Review and make a determination of what ought to be the ultimate number of nuclear weapons we have, but, as long as we have this, we have got to make sure they are safe and they are reliable.

Mr. Chair, I would encourage my colleagues to vote against this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 41 OFFERED BY MR. POLIS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 41 printed in House Report 115-259.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 286, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$986,292,000)”.

Page 288, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$634,600,000)”.

Page 297, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$352,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, my amendment would simply restore the funding cuts to the Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy account just to fund at the same levels it was funded last year. That is \$986 million. And I will tell you where we find those funds and take it from in a minute. It takes them from two programs: the fossil fuel energy and research account and the nuclear weapons account.

So we should invest in our future for energy efficiency and renewable energy rather than throwing more money at the past and into nuclear weapons.

Fossil fuel research and development is a dead end for America, for our economy, for the clean air that we need, and for our water. Continuing to fund fossil fuels, whether it makes them marginally cleaner or not, is simply throwing money at the past rather than the future.

Regardless of how clean we make fossil fuel extraction, it is never as clean

or, more importantly, as sustainable as renewable energy, and definitely won't be as cheap or sustainable as clean energy.

I am the proud sponsor of a bill for our country to reach 100 percent renewable energy by 2050, but to be able to do that, we need the investment in research and development.

Frankly, investing in nuclear weapons when we already have enough nuclear capabilities to destroy every man, woman, and child on this planet seven times over is simply wasteful. Nuclear weapons receive over \$10 billion, while renewable energy receives a measly \$986 million.

I was talking to one of my constituents a little while ago, Nancy Cronk from Colorado, and she agreed that we simply spend too much on potentially having the capability of destroying the world through nuclear weapons, rather than investing in a renewable energy future.

We don't live in Cold War times. We don't need Cold War-level spending for facilities that the military hasn't used in over 20 years.

□ 2045

We should be following the advice, in this case, of the Department of Defense and focusing on the renewable energy account, which helps fund national labs like the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden.

The most recent study of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's economic impact alone shows it totaled over \$800 million nationally. In addition, CU Boulder and NREL jointly operate the Renewable and Sustainable Energy Institute, which is located in Colorado, which helps advance renewable energy science, engineering, and analysis through industry partnerships and education.

That is the future of our country, Mr. Chairman, and the future of the world. And by undercutting our investment in our future and throwing money at the past, and being able to kill every man, woman, and child seven times instead of six times, we are losing the forest through the trees, and we are making our country less secure, not more secure.

The Building Technologies Offices, NREL, and many others receiving funds under this account do amazing work to pull us into the 21st century, like using 3D printing for wind blades. Not only that, their work helps save consumers money because of energy efficiency.

In fact, an estimate shows that from 2009 to 2015, the work of the Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy program has saved consumers more than \$543 billion and reduced carbon pollution by 2.3 billion metric tons.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to adopt this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I am not opposed to the EERE. I actually like the program. But we had to make some difficult decisions, and our highest priority is maintaining our nuclear stockpile and making sure that our defense activities were fully funded.

Secondly, it was making sure that the Army Corps of Engineers was fully funded at the WRDA level that our colleagues here on the floor always insist on. That means we had to make some difficult decisions within the Department of Energy. EERE, we did the best we could.

But when the gentleman says, you know, we are not living in the Cold War anymore, so we don't need the nuclear weapons and stuff and we don't need these facilities and stuff, you are right, we are not living in the Cold War anymore. It is scarier times right now than it was in the Cold War.

You never need those facilities until you need those facilities, and you better have had them by then. That is the problem. It is not looking forward.

So I oppose this amendment because we have done our best within the weapons activities to make sure that we do what our Nation requires, and that is to make sure that we have a safe, reliable, and secure nuclear stockpile.

And we ought to let the Defense Department come out with their Nuclear Posture Review and tell us what they believe we need as a weapons system, altogether, when that review comes out.

I oppose it also because it takes money for the arguments made by my friends from West Virginia, because it takes money out of the fossil energy research. As they said every time I have asked the Department of Energy, “What do you think the amount of energy we are going to consume over the next 20 or 30 years that comes from hydrocarbons, coal, and natural gas, is going to be in the future,” it is actually a larger part, not a smaller part.

And while I have been to NREL, I think NREL is a great lab. They do some incredible work out there. We want to support them. We want to make sure that they stay open and that they can do the job that we have asked them to do and that our other labs can also.

But this amendment, I think, is directly the wrong direction to go.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield to the gentleman from West Virginia.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I will be very brief.

By my calculation, this is about the third or fourth amendment from the minority trying to take money out of a very important future-looking initiative, the fossil energy R&D, and redirect it elsewhere. They keep trying to raid this important funding.

I am sitting here with my colleague from West Virginia, who NETL is actually physically in his district. There is no stronger champion of NETL than

the gentleman from West Virginia. This is hundreds of jobs in our State, in his district, but the impact of their work reaches across the country and literally around the world.

I spoke on a previous attack on this funding a moment ago. I defend strongly the work of the fossil energy R&D. And to suggest this is just looking to yesterday is missing the point that I made a moment ago talking about rare earth elements and unlocking the potential that these fossil resources have in so many ways, not just energy production.

So I thank the chairman of the subcommittee for recognizing and supporting fossil energy R&D; and my colleague from West Virginia, who is such a staunch supporter of NETL, and my ability to work with him.

Please, I encourage people to reject the gentleman's amendment.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman for recognizing the importance of the Energy Efficient & Renewable Energy account. It is an incredibly high priority for economic development. We talked about the jobs and technology transfers that come out of that fund. We also talked about its need for energy independence in our future.

I hope the chairman is willing to work on finding other agreeable funding sources to hold that account harmless and plus it up.

I want to highlight a couple of other important projects funded from the EERE account, large and small. One example is the EERE's Vehicle Technologies Office which awarded \$500,000. It doesn't sound like a lot, but it makes an enormous difference on the ground for the Clean City Coalition to support Project FEVER, to foster the development of Colorado State's acceleration of plug-in electric vehicles, which are in extremely high demand.

The Clean Cities project helped to develop a comprehensive electric vehicle strategy, including supply readiness and implementation. The project has already saved over 7.5 billion gallons of petroleum.

These are just some of the many projects that we should be focused on because they are truly our future. Rather than expanding our nuclear arsenal, rather than throwing money into the past with additional fossil fuel research, we can move toward cleaner air, cleaner water, more jobs, a stronger economy, and energy independence through clean, renewable energy.

That is why I ask you to support my amendment that will increase EERE funding and decrease funding for fossil fuel research and unnecessary and dangerous nukes that would destroy the world more than is reasonably needed as a deterrent.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to adopt my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 42 OFFERED BY MR. MCKINLEY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 42 printed in House Report 115-259.

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

On page 286, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$33,400,000)".

On page 288 line 15, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$33,400,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia.

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is simple. We are merely restoring the Fossil Energy Research & Development program back to the levels of 2017—merely back to the levels of 2017.

We must put it in perspective. It is still \$300 million less than it was under President Bush.

Let's also put it in perspective. As I showed earlier on the chart, the consumption of fossil fuels make up 81 percent of all the country's energy consumption; 81 percent fossil fuels of coal, natural gas, and oil. But the level of research is only at 18 percent of the money that we have currently.

Now, I just heard a minute ago someone say this is pretty balanced. Look, I may be just an engineer, but I don't think 18 percent is the equivalent of 81 percent. There is something wrong with that.

I am not here to argue that America shouldn't be investing in renewables and nuclear. That wouldn't be appropriate. But the reality is that America and the entire world will be relying on fossil energy for years to come.

The Energy Information Administration estimated that by 2040, fossil energy is still going to make up 78 percent of the world's consumption. So shouldn't it be America's goal to lead the world, to have that mantle of leadership, to develop the technologies that we can export to other countries around the world that are going to continue to use coal and gas and oil in the cleanest and most efficient way? Shouldn't we, again, be that global leader on this?

But we can't do this without leadership.

Mr. Chairman, let's consider the history of this, the fossil research from the Federal Government. Just remember the threat years ago, back in the eighties, we had of acid rain. It was the research in our Federal labs all across America that reduced the emissions of SO_x and NO_x gases and addressing cleaned up acid rain and reduced it.

The reduction in CO₂ emissions around the globe and around America have come as a result of fossil fuel re-

search. On a per capita basis today, we are now emitting—on a per capita basis, this is the lowest level of CO₂ emissions we have had in over 50 years, thanks to fossil fuel research.

And the shale gas revolution that made America the biggest producer of gas in the world, it originated in our Federal laboratories in research. That is just part of where we have been.

Now go into the future. Someone said this is a fuel of the past. How can it be when the R&D money—look what they are working on in our labs all across America, virtually in every one of our districts across this country. We are doing a carbon capture, utilization, and storage. We are doing chemical looping. They are studying and understanding methane hydrates.

You talked earlier about rare earth elements are being detected now in coal seams all across America.

What about oxy-combustion?

All of that is coming out of current research, fresh research that we will be able to export around the world so that other countries will be able to burn their coal more cleanly.

So, look, Congress should not be in the way, picking winners or losers, and it shouldn't jeopardize the work of our laboratories. If we are serious about reducing emissions, Congress should be putting more money into this program, not reducing it.

In an ideal world, the funding level for R&D should be much higher. As I said, under President Bush it was \$300 million more than it is today. But I understand the fiscal constraints we have.

So let's utilize our domestic energy source, energy supply in the most efficient and clean way possible. We do that through our research from our Federal laboratories.

Mr. Chairman, I urge the House to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. I respect Congressman MCKINLEY's amendment and his desire to help America and help his own State. And for my entire career, I have voted for clean coal research and development because southern Ohio has a whole lot of Btus underground in the form of coal.

However, I really object to the gentleman taking the funds from the Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy account. I would like you to know that that account, in this bill, is cut \$986 million below last year's level, and that is a deep concern because that is the part of our economy that is growing.

Ten percent of the jobs produced in the energy sector are in renewables, and we actually employ more people in solar and in wind energy than we do in coal extraction. So we know that a major part of our future lies in new energy technologies, these developing

technologies which have been proving themselves.

An additional cut of \$33.4 million in the EERE account would further weaken these new technologies. And I will guarantee you that the technologies are so valuable that the Russians and the Chinese are hacking into these companies repeatedly because of their importance to the future, and they recognize where the future is headed. And we have got a real job on our hands to hold on to these technologies because of that and because of their market manipulation.

China is a great market manipulator. She has a state-run economy, and it is not fair. If they can't steal the technology directly—if you invest over there and you take your technology there, they steal your IT there.

□ 2100

So just since 2003, our country has spent \$2.6 trillion importing foreign petroleum. When you think about the importance of America being energy independent here at home, coal, clean coal, has a role to play in that, but these new technologies have a major role to play as well. We all support a diverse energy portfolio to eliminate our reliance on imported energy—some would say addiction to imported energy. We have been breaking that addiction.

We should be advancing technology to clean up fossil energy, yes, and this bill already does that with sufficient funding to the fossil energy accounts. Our country should be leading investment in these technologies, not just for our own energy security, but also for economic opportunities and the jobs that this expanding market is already providing us.

We can't really afford to cede this market to any other country in the world, and I oppose this amendment and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Chairman, let me just close quickly by saying we are not talking about West Virginia. We are talking about all across the country. These laboratories are located in colleges and universities all across America.

Coal is something that is expanding. Our exports are up 58 percent. People around the world are going to use coal. I think it is the responsibility for us to show them how to burn it cleanly. China is going to increase their use by 43 percent. India is going to double its consumption in that same timeframe.

When you compare the amount of research, only 18 percent currently of all the Federal dollars for research is in fossil fuel, but 56 percent is in renewable. That is not balanced.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas) having assumed the chair, Mr. DONOVAN, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3219, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 115-261) on the resolution (H. Res. 478) providing for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 473 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 3219.

Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN) kindly resume the chair.

□ 2104

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes, with Mr. DONOVAN (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, amendment No. 42 printed in House Report 115-259, offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 43 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 43 printed in House Report 115-259.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 286, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$15,000,000)”.

Page 296, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$15,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, I would like to begin by thanking the chairman of the full committee for his extraordinary work and for the chairman of the subcommittee for this auspicious opportunity.

I have been listening to the arguments recently that we have had on the floor regarding the most recent amendments between fossil fuels and renewables, and I am hoping to strike a sweet spot here. I am not picking on fossil fuels, and I am going to talk about a renewable that I think everybody has an affinity for and an agreement with.

This amendment simply increases funding for hydroelectric through the EERE by \$15 million and decreases funding to the bureaucracy. There is no increase to the budget. This amendment just increases the appropriation for the Office of Energy and Efficiency and Renewable Energy because hydropower is available in every region of the country; 2,200 hydropower plants provide America's most abundant source of clean, renewable electricity. I would say it is the first renewable. It accounts for 67 percent of domestic renewable generation and, clearly, 7 percent of total electricity generation.

By 2025, hydropower would create almost a million and a half new, good, high-paying jobs. It can be implemented in rivers, harbors, coastal areas, et cetera, to capture energy from currents and tides. Harnessing this energy will create a truly and absolutely renewable and green source of energy without any emissions and with little fanfare to everybody involved.

Hydro is predictable year-round power output, while other renewable source outputs can be variable in some areas and necessitate the use of large battery banks and alternate power sources. For instance, sometimes when the wind doesn't blow, believe it or not, if you don't know it, there is a gas-fired generator often associated with those windmill farms that has to come on because base load isn't being serviced.

Hydropower facilities are quiet, unobtrusive, while many people report that considerable noise is generated by wind power and that land is taken up by huge solar farms.

Hydropower is base load energy. That means it is on all the time, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, just sitting there turning out the power so that you can hit the light switch when you come home and not wonder: Is the power going to be on? It backs up other intermittent sources of energy.